



Isaiah was written about seven centuries before Christ, warning the people of Israel that they were on a path leading to God’s judgment. But judgment isn’t the end of the story. There is also comfort in the promise that God will have compassion, and ultimately rescue His people through His Servant. Isaiah also offers us the opportunity to ask the questions: What path are WE on? What is the way forward?

Week Six: WHOM DO YOU TRUST?

Text: Isaiah 36-39

Isaiah’s original readers faced political, social, and military crisis and upheaval...just as we do. Hezekiah, the King of Judah, was a devoted follower of God when he came to the throne as a young man. Over the course of his reign, he faced challenges that included being militarily outmatched, an illness that brought him to the brink of death, and prosperity and peace. How he faced those challenges revealed Who he trusted.

Discussion Questions: *The following are based on the “My Application” Questions found in the bulletin this week. Leader urge your group members to attend worship—or watch the sermon online—and to spend time considering and answering those questions before coming to the group. This will produce a richer discussion time.*

- Whom do you trust? Think about the people, institutions and things in your life that you trust and compare these to your trust in God.
- Have you ever been in a situation where you were being threatened, and were totally outmatched? Read Isaiah 37:14-19. How do you balance doing your part while trusting God to do His part?
- Read Isaiah 38:1-4. When Hezekiah gets word he is going to die, how does he appeal to God? Have you ever assumed that your past faithfulness should guarantee future blessings?
- Read Isaiah 39. How does Hezekiah’s response in verse 8 strike you? What does it reveal about his priorities in the latter years of his life?
- In what ways could you (or “someone you know”) jeopardize your legacy?

Memory Verse:

"The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."

Exodus 14:14

Prayer Time:

Focus on our memory verse.

Think of a situation in your life that troubles you. Do you find yourself searching for plans and strategies to fix the problem? Do you find yourself expecting God to rescue you because you have served him in the past? Instead, try this "trust experiment":

- Lay the problem before God. Cry out to him. Resist the urge to tell Him how to fix it.
- Wait quietly for him to act, without expectations about what He will do.
- Continue doing this for the coming week. Pray in this way for the friends in your group too. Pay attention to what happens. Be ready to share next week.

Application:

Tim said, "You are never too young to fully trust God. And you are never too old to damage your legacy." What does this mean for you?

- What is one way you could do practice trusting God more fully this week? Maybe it's beginning each day with a time of prayer rather than jumping right into your "get it done" mode. Maybe you've been putting off something you believe God wants you to do...get started.
- What is one way you could invest yourself in the next generation and leave a legacy of faith? For example, volunteer in Children or Student Ministry, or plan to host a Financial Peace University group in your neighborhood this fall. Take a tangible step in that direction this week.